

referred to Gov. Roy E. Barnes of Georgia; Gov. Sila M. Calderon of Puerto Rico; Gov. Mark Schweiker of Pennsylvania; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103–

382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10). H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, approved January 8, was assigned Public Law No. 107–110.

Statement on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan *January 9, 2002*

On June 4, 2001, I joined the Governor of Florida in visiting the Everglades. The Everglades and the entire south Florida ecosystem are a unique national treasure. The restoration of this ecosystem is a priority for my administration, as well as for Governor Bush. Today we are very pleased to solidify our commitment and full partnership in this unprecedented endeavor by signing a joint agreement to ensure that adequate water supplies will be available to benefit State and federally owned natural resources.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2000 authorized the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The plan has a projected cost of \$7.8 billion over 30 years, the largest ecosystem restoration project ever undertaken. The plan establishes a unique 50/50 cost-sharing partnership between the State of Florida and the Federal Government.

A critical component of the plan relates to the supply and management of water for multiple uses in south Florida—restoration, municipal, agricultural, and flood control. The Congress determined that the overarching objective of the plan is the restoration, preservation, and protection of the south Florida ecosystem, while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection.

Because the Federal Government's primary interest is in restoration and protection of the federally owned natural resources in the State, the Congress called for the President and the Governor to agree formally that the State would reserve under State law for each restoration project water sufficient to meet the needs of the south Florida ecosystem, including Everglades National Park, the Big Cypress National Preserve, and other natural areas owned by the State and Federal Government. The reservation of water under State law will be included in the Project Implementation Report for each project and will be consistent with the plan.

My administration is deeply committed to the Federal/State Everglades partnership, and the Department of the Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers will have important roles in this effort. On January 16, 2001, Secretary of the Interior Norton will convene a meeting in Plantation, Florida, of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force comprised of representatives of Federal, State, regional, local, and tribal governments to discuss issues involving Everglades restoration including the recently released draft programmatic regulations by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Assurance of Project Benefits Agreement

January 9, 2002

Whereas, the Everglades ecological system is unique in the world and one of the Nation's great treasures;

Whereas, the Central and Southern Florida Project as originally authorized in 1948 has had unintended consequences on the Everglades and the South Florida Ecosystem;

Whereas, the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 authorized a Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy) of the Central and Southern Florida Project;

Whereas, as required by the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, the Restudy was submitted to the Congress of the United States on July 1, 1999;

Whereas, the Restudy, renamed the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, was authorized by the Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000;

Whereas, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (the "Plan") will restore, preserve, and protect the more than 2.4 million acres of the Everglades and the South Florida Ecosystem;

Whereas, implementation of the Plan will require a collaborative effort among Federal and State partners, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, acting under Federal and State law, to achieve the shared goal of restoration of the Everglades and the South Florida Ecosystem;

Whereas, as the ecosystem is restored, all interests seek a level of assurance that they will receive the anticipated benefits from the Plan;

Whereas, the Federal interest in restoration flows largely from the substantial Federal resources in the ecosystem, including Everglades National Park and other National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and National Marine Sanctuaries, which com-

prise a significant portion of the natural system;

Whereas, in recognition of this interest, the Congress established that the overarching objective of the Plan is the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida Ecosystem, while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection;

Whereas, section 601(h)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (the "Act"), requires that the President of the United States and the Governor of Florida enter into a binding agreement that ensures that water from the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan will be made available for the restoration of the natural system;

Whereas, section 601(h)(3) of the Act further requires that the Secretary of the Army, with the concurrence of the Governor and the Secretary of the Interior, and in consultation with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Commerce, and other Federal, State, and local agencies, promulgate programmatic regulations to ensure that the goals and the purposes of the Plan are achieved;

Whereas, section 601(h)(4)(A)(iii) of the Act requires that a Project Implementation Report (PIR) identify the amount of water to be reserved or allocated for the natural system under State law;

Whereas, section 601(h)(4)(B)(ii) of the Act requires that the Secretary of the Army shall not execute a Project Cooperation Agreement until any reservation or allocation of water for the natural system identified in the PIR is executed under State law;